KADASTER SELECTS REDWOOD RUNMYJOBS® TO AUTOMATE BACKGROUND PROCESSING

Faced with the need to accommodate a move to 24/7 online services, manage the centralization of multiple datacenters and increase the overall level of automation for SAP® and non-SAP applications, Kadaster turned to RunMyJobs for SAP solutions from Redwood Software. Introduction of the solution delivered improved productivity, reduced management overheads and optimized utilization of existing IT resources.

Kadaster, or the Netherlands Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency, established in 1832, collects information about registered properties in the Netherlands and records it in public registers and legal maps. Registered items include not only immovable properties, such as houses and apartments, but also movable objects such as ships and aircraft. Annually Kadaster deals with almost 20 million requests for information from notaries, municipalities, companies, individuals and other interested parties. To enable Kadaster to provide an improved service to its growing number of customers, it became what is known as a non-departmental public body in 1994. Today Kadaster is running its business with 2,200 people of which around 400 are involved in the IT department.

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>
> — Piet Paardekam, ICT Architect, Kadaster

THE PRESSURE FOR IMPROVING SERVICES

Not surprisingly the IT requirements are very demanding. Especially with time windows available for background processing getting smaller, while the number of online services Kadaster offers its customers increases. With a planned move from 18 hour service availability to a 24/7 service, Kadaster recognized a need to implement an intelligent process automation solution.

Previously using a solution from CA, Kadaster started to look for an alternative job scheduling solution in 2003. Kadaster had realized that the existing solution would not be able to handle the advanced working procedures they were planning to introduce. Additionally, Kadaster had merged their 6 datacenters into one central datacenter at the head-office in Apeldoorn, in The Netherlands, and needed a solution that was able to scale up to meet the demands of this single, highly optimized environment.

Operational demands of the existing solution such as the time-consuming building of daily-job definitions, manually restarting failed background processes and manual scheduling of repeating jobs added to the imperative to find a smarter, more efficient way of working. Further shortcomings included a lack of calendar functions, an inability to visualize jobs graphically or easily check job status and define dependencies between jobs.

"Our IT and business environment was growing and required more high level applications, the expectation is that our environment will keep growing in the coming years" explains Piet Paardekam ICT Architect at Kadaster,"The existing workload management system couldn't provide the functionality we needed and therefore we started the selection procedure for a new job scheduler for both our non-SAP as well as our SAP environments."

RIGOROUS SELECTION CRITERIA

Kadaster created a list of 42 requirements that had to be fulfilled by any potential replacement solution. The main requirements were support for a multiplatform environment, integration with both SAP and non-SAP applications and the ability to provide end-to-end support for the production workload. After extensive research, Kadaster had to make a choice between

the RunMyJobs and a competing solution from Redwood Software and a competing product. "We chose RunMyJobs for SAP solutions from Redwood not only because of its outstanding capabilities in background processing but also because Redwood Software has such a strong relationship with SAP.", says Piet Paardekam.

ONGOING AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

The implementation of RunMyJobs started in the last quarter of 2004. The first application converted to RunMyJobs management was the business-critical non-SAP environment, including the batch-based load job of the cartographic warehouse which involves 900 complex steps that run every night and that have to be dynamically inserted into the schedule. By the first half of 2005 all the business-critical non-SAP processes had been transferred to RunMyJobs control. "With the expertise of the Redwood consultants and our own best people we managed to get this done in a relatively short time", says Piet Paardekam. "In July 2005 we were already able to start the migration of our SAP environment to RunMyJobs. Redwood provided migration tools that worked absolutely perfectly enabling us to complete phase 1 of the entire project by the beginning of 2006" Piet Paardekam continues. "In less than four months we successfully transferred hundreds of jobs from within the

SAP environment to RunMyJobs."

Since the initial RunMyJobs deployment, Kadaster has successfully migrated management of their entire SAP R/3 and SAP BW environments to RunMyJobs for SAP solutions control, an exercise which was accomplished easily and quickly. This has moved Kadaster to their goal of merging all process automation of the SAP and non-SAP environments. The IT department at Kadaster is now ready to face the demands of the future."Although the initial configuration was not focused on saving man hours, the IT specialists now have time to focus on other tasks that are more productive than manually checking if background processes have started, finished or failed" states Piet Paardekam "Additional return on investment has been achieved as proposed expenditure on extra hardware has been deferred because use of existing resources has been optimized."